Free text books in primary schools

4631. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide free text books in primary schools in the country, in order to encourage people below the poverty line to sent their children to schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) — a Programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE), launched by the Government recently, envisages provision of free text books to all girls and SC/ST Children upto Class-VIII, where the State Governments do not provide this facility.

Schools in villages of Bihar

*4632. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Bihar, without any primary school, middle school and higher secondary schools; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to make arrangements for education in all the above said villages?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.